

## Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 OST-04 RSC-01 GAC-01 RSR-01 /067 W

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R 140850 Z MAR 73

FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2572

INFO AEC/ GERMANTOWN

UNCLAS IAEA VIENNA 2029

EO: 11652: N/ A

TAGS: TECH, AORG, IAEA

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON NON- DESTRUCTIVE TESTING

REF: A. STATE 43188; B. IAEA VIENNA 1335

1. MISSION DISCUSSED STATUS SUBJECT WORKING GROUP WITH SKJOELDEBRAND, ACTING DIRECTOR, DIVISION NUCLEAR POWER AND REACTORS.

2. SKJOELDEBRAND, AFTER ASSUMING DUTIES IN THIS DIVISION LAST YEAR, HAS BEEN IN PROCESS RE- EVALUATING THIS AND OTHER RELATED WORKING GROUPS IN DIVISION ( WITH RENNIE' S SUPPORT PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE) SINCE THEY HAD BECOME CONCERNED THAT DIVISION' S EFFORTS MAY BE DIFFUSED AND BECOME LESS EFFICIENT AS RESULT CREEPING PROLIFERATION OF WORKING GROUPS RELATED TO NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, WITH SOMETIMES POORLY DIFINED OBJECTIVES AND METHODS OF WORK. THUS, SUBJECT WORKING GROUP HAS BEEN PUT ON ICE AND NO RPT NO ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THIS YEAR, AND IN FACT, IT MAY BE ABOLISHED IN ITS PRESENT FORM.

3. SKJOELDEBRAND INDICATES THAT ONE PRIMARY PURPOSE BEHIND ANNOUNCED PANEL ON METHODS OF ASSESSMENT FOR ASSURING RELIABILITY OF NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS ( SEE REFTTEL B) IS TO OBTAIN EXPERT ADVICE ON HOW AGENCY SHOULD BEST ORGANIZE ITSELF AND EFFECTIVELY ENCOURAGE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WITH RESPECT TO QUESTIONS COVERED ( OR INTENDED TO COVER) TO SOME EXTENT NOW BY EXISTING WORKING GROUPS ON; (1) NUCLEAR POWER PLANT CONTROL AND INSTRUMENTATION; (2) PRESSURE VESSELS; AND (3) NON- DESTRUCTIVE TESTING, UNCLASSIFIED

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ALL OF WHICH SHOULD COME UNDER MAJOR HEADING OF RELIABILITY OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS. HE BELIEVES AGENCY'S ACTIVITIES THESE AREAS MIGHT BEST BE PUT UNDER ONE HAT. HE ALSO WANTS TO TAKE CAREFUL LOOK AT METHODS OF OPERATION, E. G., PERHAPS LESS MEETINGS AND MORE EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE AND/ OR PUBLICATIONS. HE ALSO HAS HAD SOME CONCERN RE TENDENCY OF WORKING GROUPS TO BECOME CLOSE-KNIT "CLIQUE" OF SPECIALISTS, WHICH CAN RESULT MORE IN FURTHERING THEIR OWN PERSONAL RESEARCH INTERESTS RATHER THAN MEETING OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF EXCHANGING INFORMATION OF USE TO NATIONAL PROGRAMS.

4. COMMENT: MISSION IS PLEASED TO SEE SKJOELDEBRAND MOVING IN THIS DIRECTION AND BELIEVES HE SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED. BELIEVE SUCH RE-EVALUATION IS OVERDUE AND THAT IT MIGHT LEAD TO MORE EFFECTIVE PROGRAM. THIS CONNECTION, WE RECOMMEND THAT WHOEVER IS DESIGNATED AS U. S. PARTICIPANT TO AFOREMENTIONED PANEL ON RELIABILITY OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS BE INFORMED OF FOREGOING VIEWS AND BE PREPARED TO PROPOSE SOME CONSTRUCTIVE ALTERNATIVES. LABOWITZ

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